

OPINION 1706

Eurymeloides* Ashmead, 1889 (Insecta, Homoptera): *Eurymela bicincta* Erichson, 1842 confirmed as the type species, and a neotype designated for *E. bicincta

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers all previous fixations of type specimens for the nominal species *Eurymela bicincta* Erichson, 1842 are hereby set aside and the specimen in the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A. labelled 'Sydney, N.S.W. Austr. m 1-1095; Coll. Koebele; type of *E. bicinctellus* Kirk; *Eurymelias bicinctellus* 544 (Kirk.); neotype *Eurymela bicincta* (Erichson)' is hereby designated as the neotype.

(2) It is hereby confirmed that the nominal species *Eurymela bicincta* Erichson, 1842 is the type species of the nominal genus *Eurymeloides* Ashmead, 1889.

(3) The name *Eurymeloides* Ashmead, 1889 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Kirkaldy (1906) *Eurymela bicincta* Erichson, 1842, as confirmed in (2) above, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(4) The name *bicincta* Erichson, 1842, as published in the binomen *Eurymela bicincta* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above (specific name of the type species of *Eurymeloides* Ashmead, 1889), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2755

An application for the confirmation of *Eurymela bicincta* Erichson, 1842 as the type species of *Eurymeloides* Ashmead, 1889, and the designation of a neotype for *E. bicincta*, was received from Drs M.M. Stevens (*Yanco Agricultural Institute, New South Wales Agriculture and Fisheries, Yanco, Australia*) and M.J. Fletcher (*Biological and Chemical Research Institute, New South Wales Agriculture and Fisheries, Rydalmere, Australia*) on 23 January 1990. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 48: 212-214 (September 1991). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

It was noted on the voting paper that Dr Stevens had written (21 May 1991) that, following Evans (1933), the generic name *Eurymelias* Kirkaldy, 1907 had been treated consistently as a junior subjective synonym of *Eurymeloides* Ashmead, 1889 (para. 2 of the application); approval of the application would allow this synonymy to be maintained.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1992 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 48: 213. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1992 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 25: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 3: Bouchet, Lehtinen and Thompson.

No vote was received from Heppell.

Thompson commented: 'The justification for the use of the plenary powers in this case is to preserve the current interpretation (usage) of the name *Eurymeloides*. Unfortunately, insufficient documentation of usage was given in this case, as apparently this name has only been used by three authors in less than 10 papers in the previous 50 years. When usage arguments are made they should be documented with at least five different authors of 10 recent publications. Priority is a principle of not only nomenclature but of science as a whole. Deviation should be made only in exceptional cases. This is not one, nor in my opinion is any application which does not provide adequate documentation of usage'. (*Editorial note*. This was not simply a case of potential replacement of a name by an older unused synonym; it also involved the threatened transfer of the recognized names of two taxa (*Eurymeloides* and *E. bicincta*) to two others (*Platyurymela* and *P. semifascia*). The type species of *Eurymeloides* was misidentified and the name has never been used in the sense of the recently rediscovered Erichson specimens of 1842. The taxonomic literature on *Eurymeloides* is limited (10 papers mentioned in the application are post-1930), but the EURYMELIDAE are the dominant leafhoppers of Australia (Evans, 1966), where the *Eurymeloides* species live on *Eucalyptus*).

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

bicincta, *Eurymela*, Erichson, 1842, *Archiv für Naturgeschichte*, 8(1): 286.
Eurymeloides Ashmead, 1899, *Entomologica Americana*, 5(7): 126.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Eurymela bicincta* Erichson, 1842 as the type species of the nominal genus *Eurymeloides* Ashmead, 1889:

Kirkaldy, G.W. 1906. *Bulletin of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association Experiment Station* (Entomological Series), 1(9): 354.